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Flashback

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FLASHBACK

Journal of the Washington County Historical Society

Preserving Our Past for Future Generations

Volume 67 Summer 2017 Number 2

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On the Cover: Lucy Byrd Mock, pictured in front of the Mock home at the corner of Mock Avenue and Mount Nord Street in Fayetteville. Mock grew up in Prairie Grove and is credited with designing the first golf course in Arkansas as well as being the first woman to design a golf course in America. A graduate of the University of Arkansas with bachelor's and master's degrees, she traveled widely and worked as a noted pioneering journalist, author, publisher, teacher, musician, and composer. Read her story starting on Page 89

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Fayetteville's Auto Theft Ring

By Denele Campbell

Since 1934, troubling questions have shadowed the legacy of Fayetteville Police Chief Neal Cruse. Had he allowed an underground auto theft ring to operate under his nose? Had he colluded, even profited from the ring's activities? Was it mere coincidence that the 1932 license plate on the infamous Bonnie and Clyde death car came from a vehicle registered to his brother Merle Cruse, at that time serving as Washington County Clerk?

To get to the bottom of these allegations, we can start by examining the mood and rhythm of the early 1930s. Fayetteville remained a hill village whose primary industry was the state's main institution of higher learning, the University of Arkansas. Fayetteville's 1930 federal census enumerated a population of 7,394, an increase of 38 percent from the 1920 census. The number of occupants swelled during the school term with the addition of over 1,500 university students. An additional 31,861 citizens occupied the small towns and rural areas of Washington County, many of whom found it necessary at one point or another to venture into the city.

All of which caused Fayetteville to require the services of an effective police force. Until the early 20th century, Fayetteville's lawmen were elected marshals and their appointed deputies. The often colorful stories of the town's marshals are worthy of a brief review.

- A. K. Coward, elected 1873. Resigned 1874 "in disgust."
- W. D. Patton, elected 1881. Shot down along with deputy July 2, 1881.
- A. B. Kelly, resigned 1883 over pay dispute
- George H. Pettigrew, elected 1883. Resigned November 1884.

A total of eight men served as marshals in the 35 years between 1871 and 1906. The rowdy climate of the town in those times no

PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROL DICKERSON

Front row: Lem Guinn, Patrol Officer; Judge Rollins; Toy Gregg, Chief of Police; Albert Dearing, Patrol Officer. Back row: Dennis "Slim" Burson, Motor Patrol; J. Shelley, Sanitary Officer; Neal Cruse, Patrol Officer.

doubt kept the job interesting. Along with the occasional murder, robbery, or assault, lawmen remained busy with violations as varied as carrying a gun, gambling, selling a suit on the Sabbath, and racing a horse on a main street.

Fayetteville incorporated as a first class city on June 20, 1905. Under this new legal structure, the position of elected marshal gave way to appointed police chiefs. The following year, Mayor C.A. Mulholland appointed the first chief, U.L. Smeltzer. Two years later in April 1908, Smeltzer resigned. Already employed in the force in 1906, Alexander Cruse was appointed chief in his place.[1]

A review of Cruse's background reveals the nature of his community standing. As a child in 1859, Alex Cruse moved with his family from Tennessee to settle in the Cane Hill area of Washington

County. Alex and Lucy Crawford Cruse's first six children born at this location included Neal in 1881. The last five were born at their home in Prairie Grove where they relocated in 1889, and included Merle born in 1899. Alex served as Prairie Grove constable for at least four years and as city marshal for two years as well as being elected to that city's school board for fourteen years. In 1906, Alex moved his family to Fayetteville to improve the educational opportunities for his children and to take up his new job on the city police force.[2]

In 1909, Cruse relinquished his temporary role as chief and became assistant to the new chief, W.A. "Toy" Gregg, appointed by Mayor W.H. Rollins. That same year, the city council passed Ordinance 259 setting out the duties and powers of the police chief.[3] The arrangement of W.A. Gregg as chief with Alex Cruse as his assistant continued through the next seventeen years. Cruse gained his own assistant, Walter Henry, in 1913. The department grew with the town especially with the state's 'dry' laws enacted in 1910 and with national alcohol prohibition in 1919.

Sometime before February 1923, Alex's son Neal Cruse hired on as a patrolman.[4] Previously engaged as a security officer for the University of Arkansas and before that as a farmer in the Prairie Grove area, Lacy Neal Cruse was 43 at the time he joined the city's payroll. With his seventh grade education, Neal and his wife Willie had raised five children. According to his World War I draft registration in 1918, he was of medium height and medium build with brown eyes and gray hair.

Neal's father Alex Cruse retired in 1926 and along with his wife moved back to the farm near Cane Hill. In 1928, the Fayetteville Police Department under Chief Gregg included A.C. Dearing, Lem Guinn, and Neal Cruse as patrolmen and D.A. Burson as traffic officer. In 1929, for unknown reasons, Chief Gregg and officers Dearing, Burson, and Cook all resigned. By default, Neal Cruse became chief.

Cruse was officially appointed chief by Mayor T.S. Tribble on July 8, 1930. He would enjoy another four years of official duty — circulating at social affairs, participating in community events,

serving in roles as varied as pallbearer and Razorback booster. Then, justly or not, his world blew apart.

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Economic crisis triggered by the stock market crash late in 1929 ricocheted through homes and cities. Over the next three years, worldwide gross domestic product fell by 15 percent. International trade fell by 50 percent. During the same period, crop prices fell by 60 percent and unemployment in the U.S. rocketed to an all-time high of 25 percent. By 1932, increasing drought across the nation's midsection left farm families homeless and banks in collapse.[5] No segment of the population passed untouched by these conditions.

In a reckless bid for economic success, some folks turned to crime. A growing network of passable roads and automobiles with high-powered engines enhanced the chances of escape from a crime scene. These conditions set the stage for a bumper crop of desperados like Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow, only two of many young people growing up in families already pushed to the edge. For Bonnie and Clyde who began their crime spree in 1932, stealing small amounts of money from gas stations and grocery stores led to increasingly violent confrontations with law enforcement.[6]

Sensationalized news accounts of such activities elicited a strange cocktail of reactions, sympathy even jealousy among some, fear and wariness among others. It depended on what you had to lose. When the news of a Barrow gang robbery at a Fayetteville grocery hit the front page in June 1933, citizens locked their doors and kept their children inside. Local lawmen were joined by officers from Crawford and Sebastian counties in a search to bring the thieves to justice. The gang eluded capture, melting away into the rugged hills.

Even those not resorting to violence and crime struggled to find livelihood. Belt tightening occurred at all levels, including governments. Dependent on waning tax income for meager wages, law enforcement personnel walked a precarious line. No wonder that suspicions in Fayetteville flew as the Barrow gang's visits to town and a rash of auto thefts resulted in nasty rumors about the men charged with protecting public safety.
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Despite ongoing gossip, state and federal charges filed in December 1934 took everyone by surprise. On December 3, 1934, the *Fayetteville Daily Democrat* reported "Five Arrested in Auto Cases":

> Five men are being held in the Washington County jail in connection with alleged operations of an auto theft ring in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri, Sheriff Harley Gover said today. Charges had not been filed against the five awaiting further information, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tom Pearson said.
>
> The five are Sam Hirsh, Clarence Judkins, Charlie Emmett, Albert Lindsley and Bill Brinson.
>
> The sheriff said two cars, stolen from Springfield, Mo., and Wagoner, Okla., have been located and are in possession of the officers. One other has been located but not recovered.
>
> Sheriff Gover said today he was in communication with federal agents at Little Rock and a man from the state office would be here tomorrow, since the cars were out-of-state cars.
>
> The sheriff said that Hirsh's car was one of a number of local cars stolen but that the car had been found dismantled. Hirsh held a deputy constable's commission, which he is said to have obtained in connection with finger-print work.

Four days later, headlines announced "Local Plumber Is Arrested."

> Homer Christman, local plumber, is the eighth man to be arrested in connection with an alleged car theft ring...
>
> Christman has admitted he was the man who went to Fort Smith with Sam Hirsh and bought dies for changing numbers on cars...
>
> ...Others held include Sam Hirsh, against whom a charge of disposing of mortgaged property has been filed
~~~

> and against whom other charges will be filed... [Other arrests were] Clarence Judkins charged with grand larceny and possessing a car with mutilated motor and serial number; Albert Lindsey charged with grand larceny;[7] Charlie Emmett, charged with grand larceny;and Earl Watts, charged with disposing of mortgaged property.

Another party to the alleged offenses, George Kastl, was being extradited from Kansas.

Three days later, on December 10, 1934, front page headlines announced "Police Chief Is Suspended by Commission." The article discussed the proliferation of rumors "in connection with a stolen car which was captured by the chief and which was driven by him pending location of its owners."

> Last week it was returned to its owners in Springfield, following arrest of eight members of an alleged car theft ring...Mr. Cruse knew the car was stolen and was driving it while his own car was out of the city or until its owner was found, he said...He reported discovery of the car to Bob Brown, county supervisor for the revenue department, and was given permission to drive it for a short time without a license until his own car was available. This statement was verified by Mr. Brown.

Federal charges were filed the next day against six of the original suspects, alleging that:

> in violation of Section 88 of Title 18, United States Code, unlawfully, knowingly, corruptly, fraudulently and feloniously conspire to steal, conceal, barter, trade and otherwise dispose of certain motor vehicles and to transport them from other states of the Union to Arkansas for the purpose of concealing, bartering, trading, and otherwise disposing of the same unlawfully.
>
> Specific charges state that about September 30 [1934], George Kastl [alias Castle, alias William Teasley] "stole, concealed and transported a 1934 model Chevrolet coupe

> on which the motor number was changed, property of C. I. Williams of Monett, Mo., which car was repainted by defendants and unlawfully sold and transferred to Harry Brinson."[8]

Over the coming week, Kastl and Emmett pleaded guilty to the state charges of grand larceny and along with Judkins and Watts were transported to the Fort Smith jail. Hirsh remained at the Washington County jail without funds to post a $2,000 bond.

Regarding the situation with Chief Cruse, local attorney Price Dickson was appointed special counsel to handle the investigation. The *Democrat* reported:

> Members of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) had previously talked with Sam Hirsh, held in jail in default of bond, in connection with the alleged car theft ring and who testified for the government in some of the auto theft cases last week. Details of the meetings and testimony were not made public.[9]

On December 21, Hirsh joined his fellow suspects in the Fort Smith jail and matters rested until after the first of the year.

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Sam Hirsh emerged as a pivotal character in Fayetteville's auto theft ring. A newcomer to Fayetteville as recently as 1930, nineteen-year-old Hirsh relocated from Sedalia, Missouri, with his parents Harry and Rose Hirsh and two siblings, Morris/Maurice and Esther. Joining thousands of Eastern European Jews seeking asylum from increasingly ugly pogroms, Harry and Rose emigrated from Odessa, Russia, in 1897 and became naturalized citizens of the United States, residing briefly in Waterbury, Connecticut, where their first child, Emil, was born. At the time of the 1900 census, Harry was employed as a vegetable peddler.

By the 1910 census, the Hirsh family lived in Bunceton, Cooper County, Missouri. Children included Emil now 10, Jacob (later Jack) age 8, Jennie 6, Susie 6, Moses/Maurice/Morris age 3 and Sam, age 1. Harry's occupation was junk dealer.
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The 1920 census finds the family in Sedalia, Missouri, grieving the loss of Emil. Serving as a private in Company E., 110th Engineers of the U.S. Army, Emil met his end at the Battle of the Argonne near Meuse, Lorraine, France, on September 29, 1918. Harry Hirsh had become a salesman and the family had gained its last child, Esther, now six.[10]

By 1925, Harry's hide and wool business, Laupheimer & Hirsh, was listed in the Sedalia City Directory as his business along with 'The Army Store' and 'The Famous Bootery.' Young Sam turned 16 in January 1925 and worked as a driver for Laupheimer & Hirsh.[11]

On May 14, 1925, Sam Hirsh was arrested for making an illegal left hand turn, for which he paid a $5 fine. In July, Private First Class Sam Hirsh reported for two weeks training with Battery F, 128th Field Artillery unit of the Missouri National Guard. On September 17 of that year, 'Sammie' Hirsh and another man were arrested for intoxication. The other man was also charged with disturbing the peace. In December 1925, a certain Bob Berbates was charged with common assault of Sam Hirsh, who stated that Berbates chased him up the street, knocked him down, and beat him.[12]

Matters for Sam Hirsh hardly improved in 1926. In March, his father reported the theft of his vehicle. Sam was not charged in the matter but in retrospect, circumstances suggest his culpability:

> Harry Hirsh reports his Nash sedan stolen from in front of his house at 8:30 a.m. Sunday morning. The car was found in the front yard of someone else and the police chief said it had been driven by someone who was drunk…driven over the curb and into shrubbery. The front bumper was damaged and the rear fender bent. A grocery store had been robbed by the same thief…a car jack and flower vase from the Nash were found near the store… damages were a large bunch of bananas and a broken window.[13]

In December 1926, Sam was one of three men arrested in St. Louis for a plot to rob the downtown offices of the Brink's Express Company. According to Hirsh's account to authorities, a total of six

MCCULLOCH BROTHERS INC. PHOTOGRAPHS, CP MCLMB A1644B
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES: ARIZONA COLLECTION

The "Harry and Rose (Axel) Hirsh Family," pictured in 1943 at Phoenix, Arizona. From left, front row: Jack, Sam and Morris; back: Esther, Harry, Rose and Kiki.

men were in on the plot including two older men, one of whom was an attorney. Sam, his older brother Maurice, and John Alexander confessed to the plot. Sam and John were found in a car stolen earlier in the evening. They said they planned to rob a house as well. The expected take from Brink's was $100,000-$200,000.[14]

Maurice was released a few days later and no further report on the outcome for Sam has been found.[15]

In July 1927, Sam suffered injuries from a car wreck involving two vehicles which collided 'at a high rate of speed' at a downtown Sedalia intersection. Sam was thrown through the windshield and landed about 25 feet from the car, resulting in several days of hospitalization. The other four young people in the vehicle were also

injured. The other car, which hit them broadside, carried four adults who suffered little harm from the accident. No record has been found assigning responsibility for the accident.[16]

Evidently, the wreck didn't disable the young man. In September 1927 he entered a boxing match in the welterweight category. His opponent, Kid Kerr, won by knockout. The sports writer stated that Sam put up a good fight but that Kerr "slipped in an unprotected spot, drove a left into Hirsh's stomach then a right to the jaw, sending Hirsh to the mat for the count." Follow up reports related Hirsh's intention to train more and come back to win.[17]

A few months later, in January 1928, Sam was arrested along with a budding criminal named Dick Shepherd who had been caught robbing a pawn shop. Hirsh was cleared the next day for lack of evidence. Shepherd had somewhat of a reputation for getting into trouble and may have had quite a bit to teach young Hirsh. In April, Sam was charged with forging a postal money order. His father bonded him out. Later the same month, Sam and Dick were arrested for reckless driving and again Harry Hirsh bailed his son out of jail.[18]

In May 1928, Sam and Dick were charged with loitering and pleaded guilty.[19] Sam couldn't pay the $25 fine so he went to jail. In June, the two were arrested on assault charges for throwing rocks at a woman.[20]

Fed up with Sam's criminal activity, the Hirsh family decided a change of environment might be helpful. Shortly after the assault charge, Sam's mother Rose and younger sister Esther insisted on his company for an extended motoring vacation. At the conclusion of their travels, on August 15, 1928, Sam wed Sylvia Kiken of Jersey City, a union no doubt arranged by a family anxious to divert their son's trajectory.[21]

To little avail. The following spring back in Sedalia, Sam was fined for parking in a bus zone. On July 22, 1929, Harry's Chevrolet sedan was mysteriously stolen from in front of the Hirsh family home. In September, felony charges were filed against Sam Hirsh for grand larceny. The alleged offense involved the theft of a Chevrolet sedan on which the motor numbers had been changed. The car was later found in a nearby county and returned to its owner. After being arrested and

extradited from Phoenix, Arizona, Sam protested he'd been framed. In October, Sam's $3,000 bond was posted by his father.[22]

Evidently Harry Hirsh provided information to law enforcement as to his son's whereabouts in Arizona where older brother Jack and wife had set up residence a few years earlier. Sam failed to appear for a January 1930 court date on the larceny charge, excused by a Phoenix doctor's affidavit which reported that Sam suffered pneumonia.[23] The case was again continued in April, and thereafter dropped from public record.[24]

By March 1930, Harry Hirsh had taken up residence in Fayetteville, Arkansas, established his hide and wool business, and settled into a residential neighborhood. Hiding his errant son in a modest backwater like Fayetteville might have seemed a reasonable step. The rest of the family visited that month from Sedalia, as duly reported in the *Sedalia Democrat* society pages.[25]

The 1930 federal census, enumerated April 17, lists the entire Hirsh family as residing in a modest rented home at 434 Vandeventer Street in Fayetteville, with Harry, Rose, Morris age 23, Sam age 19, Sam's wife 'Keke' age 17, and Esther, age 16. Harry, Morris and Sam each named his occupation as 'junkman.' By 1932, the city directory lists this address as the home of Sam and 'Kiki' while the Harry Hirsh residential address is now 704 S. School. According to the directory, Hirsh Iron & Metal was located at 615 S. School and employed Samuel and one helper. Directory listings and newspaper advertisements suggest that Sam was the owner of this business.

Over the next three years, social pages of the *Fayetteville Daily Democrat* reported occasional events of the Hirsh family: visits by married daughter Jennie from Sedalia, Esther's appearance in a University High School play, Esther's journey to New York to work at a brokerage firm, and Rose's visits to Arizona to see her son Jack.[26] Also noted was Rose's 1933 journey to France as a member of a Gold Star Mothers' group invited to visit their deceased sons' graves.[27]

Sam made a place for himself in Fayetteville. In February 1932, he played bugle at a veteran's funeral at the Fayetteville National Cemetery.[28] In June 1932, one of a continuing series of advertise-

ments for Sam's business, Hirsh Iron & Metal Company, appeared in the Fayetteville newspaper. In the summer of 1932, Sam reported for his two weeks of National Guard training as a private first class with Battery A, 142nd Field Artillery.[29]

In October 1932, Harry Hirsh swore out a warrant for his daughter Esther's arrest, charging her with grand larceny. The 18-year-old had taken diamond rings and $1,300 in cash from the home and hired a taxi to drive her to Little Rock. Police there found her at a hotel with about $800 of the money still in her possession. Police Chief Neal Cruse and Assistant Chief Troy Stockburger retrieved her the next day. In response to Rose Hirsh's emotional plea on behalf of her youngest daughter, the grand jury refused to indict.[30]

In the summer of 1933, Hirsh Iron & Metal Co, Sam Hirsh proprietor, is included in the newspaper's list of businesses participating in the National Recovery Administration's 'Roll of Honor,' President Franklin Roosevelt's centerpiece legislation designed to improve economic conditions.[31] An August 1934 advertisement for Hirsh Iron & Metal Co. states that the iron market is better, "also copper, brass, aluminum." Sam's business in scrap metal on South School (Highway 71) enjoyed a high profile location on the main thoroughfare on its route out of town.

The Hirsh family must have hoped that the relocation to Fayetteville would have brought an end to Sam's criminal activities. Those hopes were dashed with Sam's arrest in December 1934. How had they failed to observe that his iron and metal business fronted a much more lucrative venture in stolen cars?

The charges filed and subsequently prosecuted at both state and

federal levels addressed only the three cars known to law enforcement at that time. There are reasons to question whether the three vehicles at the center of the investigation constituted the entire scope of Sam Hirsh's illegal activities. A 1935 search of Hirsh's business property found several license plates that had been tossed into a well.[32] But evidence of any additional thefts has not been found.

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On January 3, 1935, the Fayetteville Civil Service Commission gave ten days' notice to Neal Cruse. The formal complaint cites five points of information upon which the commission based its notice of discharge:

- Inefficiency in office
- Conduct unbecoming a police officer of Fayetteville
- Breach of your public sworn duty as a police officer aforesaid
- Converting a stolen car to your own use, knowing the same to be stolen
- Involving yourself in transactions with stolen automobiles, knowing the same to be stolen, without a satisfactory explanation.

Cruse hired veteran defense attorney Tom Sullins to assist in formulating his response. On January 7, they requested that charges be made "more definite." The commission responded in an amendment to their original notice. They alleged Cruse had failed to provide recommendations to the Commission regarding rules governing the police department; that he'd been absent from the force repeatedly for periods from a few hours to several days without permission; and that he had repeatedly failed to furnish monthly reports.

Tom Sullins
~~~

Further, the Commission alleged that Cruse had used intoxicating liquor while on duty and taken from a locker in the police department certain liquor confiscated in a raid. They accused him of 'allowing' car thieves to operate in the city. They claimed he had made unauthorized releases of prisoners arrested by other officers.

The charges also stated he had been "extremely lax" in the enforcement of law and order, specifically listing four 'bawdy houses' (and their locations) that Cruse allegedly had failed to shut down. Finally, they concluded that he had not cooperated with other 'peace officers' investigating auto thefts and, while driving a stolen car over the course of six weeks, had prevented other members of his force from cooperating.

Cruse denied all charges. Further, attorney Sullins cited Section 3 of Act 28 of the 1933 legislation creating public service commissions, which required the commission to prescribe rules governing the police, among other duties, and that in not doing so, the commission was without any legal authority in this case.

Testimony before the commission on January 28 included Cruse's statement that he 'recovered' the car in question October 17, 1934, and drove it until it was returned to its owner December 4. Referring to the stolen car, Earl Hand, acting chief and witness before the commission, said Cruse asked him to "keep it quiet" as he thought he could "arrest the whole bunch" who were involved.

Another witness, Charles McClelland, said Cruse told him he was contacting the manufacturer in an effort to find the owner. Also testifying to the commission, Deputy Bob Day said he 'connected wires' to make the car run and that it had been driven about 1,500 miles.

On cross examination by Tom Sullins, Day agreed that driving recovered cars 'had been done' by law officers in many instances. Earl Hand said Cruse "acted friendly" to Sam Hirsh in order to get information. As an aside, Hand mentioned that Sam Hirsh had voiced interest in getting on the police force and that both he and Cruse had signed a recommendation for Hirsh to be a deputy U.S. marshal.[33]

The CSC proceeded to discharge Neal Cruse from his job, stating that after hearing the evidence, they found "there is reason to discharge."

On February 1, 1935, a meeting between Sullins and the CSC in executive session resulted in a deal on behalf of Cruse whereby the commission would drop its complaint and reinstate Cruse. To uphold his part of the bargain, by March 1 and with a record now cleared by the CSC, Cruse would resign and seek other employment. Accordingly, on February 2 the CSC dismissed its charges.

March 1 rolled around and Cruse had not resigned. The CSC again dismissed him from office. He appealed to circuit court. Circuit Judge John S. Combs found in his favor and reinstated him with back pay of $113.32. The CSC filed a motion for a new trial, which was denied, and an appeal was made to the Arkansas Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, on February 11, 1935, Cruse defended himself in an interview with the *Fayetteville Daily Democrat*. He stated that the 'bawdy houses' named in the CSC complaint had been shut down and he provided convincing details:

> We did have complaints from all those places, but we made raids. So far as I know, they were closed and in some instances the occupants moved away. At least, we have had no further complaints.
>
> Unless we have witnesses in such cases — our own or complaining residents — we cannot make arrests except on order of the police judge.
>
> The place listed as 115 West Spring Street I think was vacated after our raid...The place on Church Street between Spring and Dickson was raided and the occupants moved out. In one instance we put the woman in jail for two weeks, trying to make her give evidence against some of the other suspects. Finally she paid her fine and was released.
>
> At No. 9 West Street, there was trouble last August and again about three months ago when the occupants moved out. Since then, Mr. and Mrs. Hayden Cooper, owners of the place, have resided there.
>
> Some of the people at 640 West Street previously complained of had moved there from No. 9 West Street. We closed them out too.

Cruse went on to explain the limitations of the law in terms of what police could do about confiscated liquor and the rules under newly decriminalized manufacture of wine and beer. He pointed out that the county sheriff not the police department handles felony charges such as sale of liquor and interstate auto theft. He promised a full statement at a later date, but such statement has not been found.

Hearing of the matter before the Arkansas Supreme Court would be held in November 1935.

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Community leaders such as Roberta Fulbright, widowed publisher of the *Fayetteville Daily Democrat* and matriarch over a number of prominent Fayetteville businesses, took a strong stand on machine politics long operating within the community's midst. A previously weak effort to unseat the circuit judge, county sheriff, and others deemed 'inside players' had resulted in the formation of the 'Good Government League,' or GGL. With growing concern over local crime and an audit of county finances that exposed corruption, the League enjoyed increasing support from ministers and social groups including the local chapter of the American Association of University Women. In January 1935, the Fulbright paper published a clip-out form urging the public to join the League.

The perceived ineptitude of police in protecting public safety ratcheted up Fulbright's efforts. Roberta nurtured grand aspirations for the City of Fayetteville as well as for her son, the future senator J. William Fulbright. Her frustration with the local police force only added to her outrage over corrupt practices she believed existed at every level of local government.[34]

As an aside, it's worth pointing that she was not the first or the last educated citizen of this fair town to lament the great divide between the 'local yokels' and those who circulated within the refined echelons of university faculty and community business leaders. Educated versus uneducated, city versus rural, natives versus 'furriners' — these divisions to some extent continue to the present day.

Public paranoia grew as criminal activities of Bonnie and Clyde occurred within Fayetteville's city limits on three known occasions.
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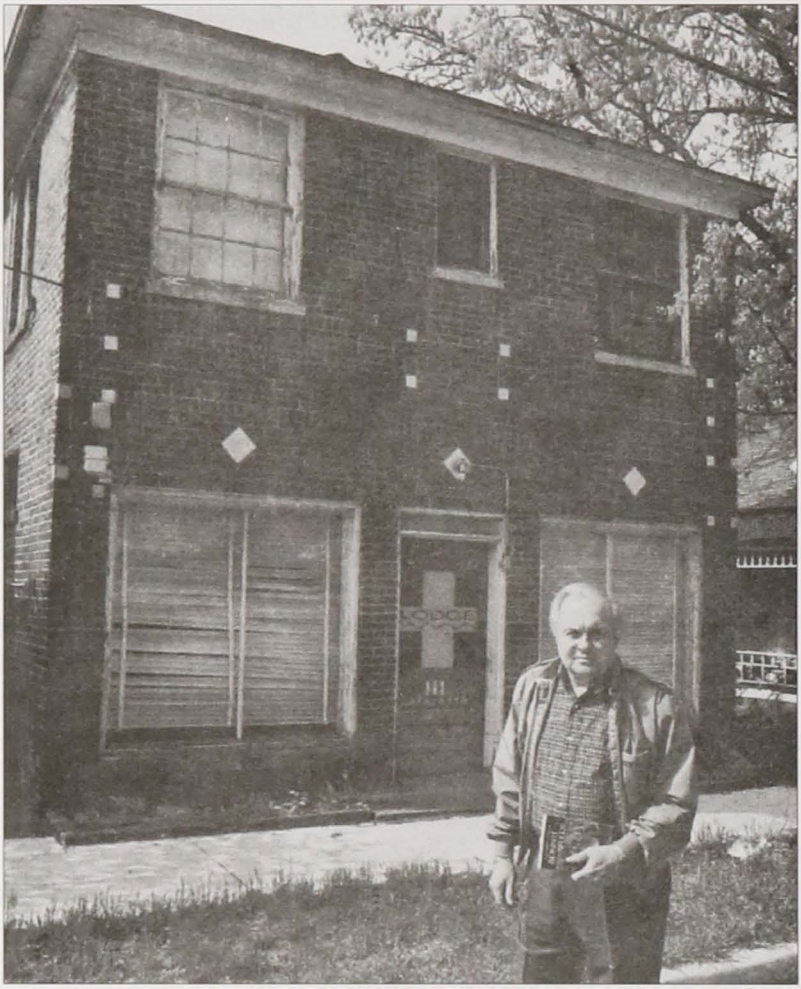

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS TIMES, COURTESY OF J.B. HOGAN

Author and historian Phillip Steele in front of Brown's Grocery, which stood at 111 West Lafayette Street.

Visits by the Bonnie Parker/Clyde Barrow gang no doubt rankled Roberta and sent morbid fear to the hearts of ladies in her social circles. It didn't help that national press built up such stories in order to sell more papers, although as a publisher Fulbright surely should have been aware of the industry's proclivities in that regard.

On June 23, 1933, two men later known to be Clyde's brother Buck Barrow and accomplice W.D. Jones scouted the Fayetteville town square looking for a place to rob. Preferring a more isolated business location than the square, they ended up four blocks north at R.L. Brown's Piggly Wiggly grocery store at 111 West Lafayette. The total take, like most of the Barrow gang's robberies, netted less than $30.

The two men hightailed it south out of town along Highway 71. The escape ran aground as they neared Alma. Cresting a hill at a high rate of speed, they rear-ended a slow moving car. Lawmen had set up a roadblock nearby and ran to the scene. Marshal H.D. Humphrey of Alma died in a shoot-out with Buck and W.D. as they wielded shotguns and a Browning automatic rifle.[35] The two robbers cut west off the highway on the road toward Rudy then made their way cross country to the Alma motel where the rest of the gang had holed up while Bonnie tried to recover from battery acid burn injuries sustained in a previous car wreck.[36]

The next alleged visit to Fayetteville, date unknown, resulted in the theft of a physician's car or at least his medical bag.[37] The "Gladstone bag in the back seat brimmed with painkillers, wound treatments, gauze, and powders" that were badly needed for treatment of the severe injury on Bonnie's leg.[38]

The last Barrow gang visit to Fayetteville was either April 9 or 10, 1934, when they gained possession of the license plate from Merle Cruse's car, Arkansas 15-368. That license plate was found on the car in which Bonnie and Clyde were killed. After Bonnie and Clyde died May 23, 1934, in the infamous Louisiana shoot-out, a second license plate was found in the bullet-riddled car and traced to a Fayetteville doctor's vehicle.[39]

Merle Cruse reported his license plate missing on April 17, 1934, surmising that it had been taken from his car as it sat parked either in the Green Acres subdivision north of town where his sister lived or in front of a home on Ozark Boulevard. Questions about possible collusion with the Barrow gang arose after it became known that a week had passed before he reported the missing plate. No one could explain why Merle drove around without a plate.[40]

For Roberta Fulbright and her cohort, the discovery of Merle Cruse's license plate on the death car of Bonnie and Clyde called into question the potential culpability not only of Merle but also of his brother and police chief Neal. Had they willingly aided and abetted the notorious crime team? Or had the missing license plate simply escaped notice by a lackadaisical police force? The implications staggered the imagination and no doubt contributed to the disregard exhibited in the Civil Service Commission's accusations against Neal.

But it was the auto theft arrests and looming federal grand jury on those charges that threw gasoline on the Fulbright/GGL's smoldering fires.

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In January 1935, the grand jury handed down indictments in federal court at Fort Smith. Eight men were named: Sam Hirsh, George Kastl, Earl 'Red' Watts, Charles Emmett, Clarence Judkins, Homer Christman, Neal Cruse, and Rex Perkins. All names but one had already been touted in the press. The naming of Rex Perkins electrified an already stunned town: he was the city attorney. Elected soon after graduating the university's law school in 1932, Perkins was well known not only for his engaging personality and adept legal mind, but also for his expertise with the fiddle, which endeared him to all.

The indictment alleged that from August 1, 1934, and up to the present time, the named men had conspired to commit various acts in violation of the Motor Vehicle Theft Act of 1919. Specifically, the charges were:

> That on or about November 23, 1934, Charlie Emmett and Clarence Judkins brought a 1929 Chevrolet coupe Motor No. 1232362 from Wagoner Oklahoma to Fayetteville, the property of Paul K. Perkinson of Wagoner.
>
> That on or about September 30, 1934, George Kastl brought a 1934 Chevrolet coupe Motor No. 4439058 from Monett, Missouri, to Fayetteville, the property of C.I. Williams of Monett.
>
> That on or about October 13, 1934, George Kastl
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brought a 1934 Chevrolet coupe Motor No. 4239347 from Springfield, Missouri, to Fayetteville, the property of Rogers-Baldwin Hardware Company of Springfield.

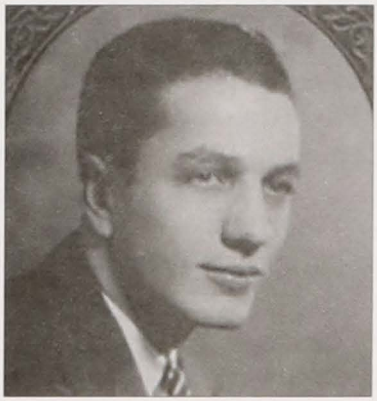
That on or about September 30, 1934, Sam Hirsh and Earl Watts received, concealed, and disposed of the Williams vehicle in interstate commerce.

That on or about October 13, 1934, Homer Christman received, concealed, and disposed the Rogers-Baldwin Hardware vehicle.

That on or about October 13, 1934, Neal Cruse received, concealed, and bartered the Rogers-Baldwin Hardware vehicle.

That on or about October 13, 1934, Sam Hirsh, Homer Christman, and Earl Watts purchased from the Bruce Rogers Company in Fort Smith certain dies to be used in changing motor numbers on automobiles, that Sam Hirsh and Homer Christman used those dies to change the motor number of the Williams vehicle.

Despite being included in the list of names on the indictment, Rex Perkins' name did not appear elsewhere in the indictment. With no specific charge leveled against him, Rex along with his attorneys filed a demurrer. The document pointed out that no specific charge had been leveled against him. Nevertheless, he along with Neal Cruse were required to post $2,500 bonds. The other defendants remained in the Fort Smith jail until March when the matter would be heard in court.



Rex Perkins

An immediate cry for Perkins to resign rose from the GGL, Ful-

bright, and others in the community. In a response to the city council's resolution asking for his resignation, Perkins stated, "I am not guilty and I do not intend to resign under pressure." As an elected official, Perkins' could not be 'fired' and with his refusal to resign, the council stated it had at least "cleared its skirts" with the resolution.

A knock-down, drag-out fight between Rex Perkins and Roberta Fulbright would grow over the coming year, resulting in his loss of re-election as city attorney and her loss of a libel suit he brought against her and the newspaper. He never again sought public office but went on over the coming decades to achieve acclaim as the region's top trial lawyer. The local grand jury's finding in favor of his $40,000 damages suit against Fulbright stalled in the effort to decide a suitable amount of settlement. Perkins never received any reimbursement. But on July 8, 1937, perhaps due to the newspaper's criminal indictment, the *Fayetteville Daily Democrat* became the *Northwest Arkansas Times*.[41]

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A brief survey of auto theft activity in Fayetteville between 1920 and 1935, aside from the three thefts in question, finds reports of over 24 such incidents, the majority of which occurred after 1930 when the bottom started falling out of the economy. Many of the stolen vehicles ended up across town or in nearby communities. Only a few involved interstate transport and, as far as known, only one involved a change of the motor vehicle identification number.

The young men at the heart of Fayetteville's alleged auto theft ring had previous experience in breaking the law. Charles Emmett, age 25 at the time of his federal trial, was born in 1910 in Carroll County, Arkansas. He lost his mother at age nine. His father was left with seven children and was unemployed at the time of the 1920 census. Ten years later, Charles was 19 and residing in the Washington County jail on a robbery charge. In January, 1933, Charles along with four other men including Earl Watts were charged in the theft of 65 cases of canned tomatoes from the Morton Canning factory at Farmington.[42]

Clarence Judkins, age 26 at the time of his federal trial, was born in 1909 in Fayetteville. He lost his mother at age six. His father
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died soon after, leaving Clarence and two younger siblings, Carl and Jesse, to be raised by their maternal grandmother in nearby Litteral (Wheeler). In 1922, his youngest brother Jesse died of scarlet fever.

In 1928, Clarence was arrested for stealing two tires. In 1931, his brother Carl was arrested on a charge of robbery and setting fire to the Younts store on Highway 16 east of Fayetteville. In 1932, Clarence was wanted on a car theft case and was sentenced in 1933 to one year in prison for the theft.[43]

Earl 'Red' Watts, age 30 at the time of his federal trial, was born in Missouri in 1905. He lived at Elm Springs with his parents and siblings at the time of the 1910 census. In 1920, he lived in Fayetteville with his mother and three siblings. He was arrested on a charge of petty larceny in 1922. He married in 1926 and at the 1930 census lived in Rogers with his wife and two children, employed in processing 'produce.' In December 1932, his four year old son died.[44] Following his arrest in January 1933 on the canned tomato theft, those charges were dropped.

George Kastl, age 22 at the time of his federal trial, was born in Kansas in 1913. By 1918, he lived just outside of Fayetteville with his parents and six siblings. One news account of his activities prior to the car theft arrest was a letter to Santa when he was 13 years old.[45] The only other public account is notice of a grand larceny charge in 1933, which was not prosecuted. The 1930 census states he lived in the Fayette Junction area on Vale Road and worked a job in produce. At the time of his arrest, he most recently had been employed by Sam Hirsh at his iron and metal salvage.

Homer Christman, age 45 at the time of his federal trial, was born in Kansas in 1890. Other than advertisements for his successful plumbing business, his name did not appear in the public record. He and his wife Florence resided on the 'Greenland Road,' Highway 71 south of Fayetteville. He was unable to read or write.

At the time of the federal trial in March 1935, Sam Hirsh was 25. From the time of his arrest the previous December, he had been eager to talk cooperatively with the authorities. He spoke in executive session with the Civil Service Commission, evidently giving cause to that body's decision to suspend Neal Cruse from his duties.

At the opening of the federal trial in Fort Smith on Monday, June 24, 1935, Hirsh entered a guilty plea and testified as the government's star witness.

> Sam Hirsh…admitted handling two stolen cars while he was the owner of an auto salvage shop during the fall of 1934. He told in detail his transactions with the two machines referred to as the 'Monett' and 'Springfield' cars.
>
> The Monett, Mo., car Hirsh said he purchased from George Kastl for his own use. The motor numbers were changed, Hirsh testified, by Homer Christman at the latter's garage and new numbers were put on by Christman. Hirsh said he, Christman, and Earl Watts bought the dies for changing the motor numbers at Fort Smith. This car later was sold to an Oklahoma man.
>
> The Springfield car was brought to Fayetteville by Kastl, Hirsh said, and was taken to Christman's garage.
>
> Hirsh testified he saw Christman removing identifying effects from the car, and that these were later taken to the river and disposed of. He testified Kastl was at Christman's garage when the locks of the car were removed. Later on that day he testified he was informed Kastl was in jail and declared Christman told him he wanted Hirsh to take the car from the garage. Hirsh testified he drove the car to South Mountain and left it there. Hirsh said Kastl told him Christman traded him an old truck for a down payment on the Springfield car.
>
> Hirsh said he met Rex Perkins on the same day and told him he had left the stolen car on the mountain. Perkins offered him $50 for it, Hirsh declared. He said he later drove the car to Fayetteville, leaving it in front of Perkins' house.
>
> When Hirsh saw the car a day or so later, he told the court, Neal Cruse was driving it. He said Cruse drove the car for more than a month. Hirsh said he asked Perkins why the chief of police was driving the car, and Perkins, according to the witness, told him Cruse agreed to drive it

while it was 'hot.' Perkins was quoted by Hirsh as saying the chief was 'all right.'

Perkins agreed to pay him $50 for the car and he collected $18, some of it in Perkins' office and some at his home, Hirsh declared.[46]

In defense testimony the following day, Olin Ernest testified that Sam Hirsh had visited him the previous night in an attempt to get him to change his testimony. Ernest was the operator of a filling station in Fayetteville. Hirsh wanted him to change the date of an event from September to October. A change of dates would place the Perkins-Hirsh contact within a time frame more in line with the thefts.

The event was a visit to Ernest's gas station from Hirsh in the company of Rex Perkins who bought gasoline at the station. Hirsh alleged that Perkins purchased the gasoline to put in a stolen car. The defense for Perkins stated that "Hirsh had run out of gas and Perkins had picked him up, took him to the filling station, got the motor fuel, and drove Hirsh back to his car."

One witness, a university student, testified that he "went with Hirsh to take a stolen car to South Mountain near Fayetteville."

On the third day of trial, June 26, 1935, three witnesses testified that Hirsh had spoken to them of both Cruse and Perkins in derogatory terms. Duke Wofford, a former employ of Hirsh at his iron and metal salvage, stated that he and Hirsh observed Cruse and Perkins driving past in a car. Hirsh stated "There go a couple of -/- small town -/-. [Expletives deleted in original news article.] I tried to rope Perkins in but he snitched to Cruse. If that two-bit officer ever tries to arrest me, I'll get him in so bad he'll never get out. I'll close Perkins up. You can get a man killed for $50."

Wofford also said that Hirsh tried to get him to steal a car for him, but he refused, and that he quit his job because he was afraid of Hirsh. Wofford also stated that after Hirsh learned Wofford would testify, he coached Wofford on what to say if asked about the disappearance of "old man Davis."[47]

One witness stated that Hirsh tried to get him to handle stolen cars but he refused. Another witness, H.C. McElroy, was incarcer-

ated at the same time as Hirsh and Earl Watts and reported that Watts told him neither Cruse nor Perkins had anything to do with stealing cars. McElroy said that Hirsh told him the same thing and confided that the accusations would "learn them to keep their nose out of my business."

Perkins testified that Hirsh had tried to sell him a stolen car for $50 and that the car was later taken into custody by Cruse. He said Cruse drove the car while a detective agency tried to find the owner.

After hearing defense testimony, Judge Ragon granted the defense's request for a directed verdict for Rex Perkins, relieving Perkins of the charges. A mistrial was declared in the cases of Neal Cruse and Homer Christman after the jury became hopelessly deadlocked. These two men's lives would remain on tenterhooks for another year before a second federal trial would convene.

The other defendants had entered guilty pleas. Sentencing in their cases concluded on June 29, 1935:

> Sam Hirsh, confessed leader of the ring, was given two years in a federal reformatory on the conspiracy indictment and two years in a reformatory on an indictment charging auto theft, the two sentences to run concurrently.
>
> Earl Watts, Charles Emmett, Clarence Judkins, and George Kastl were sentenced to 15 months in the federal reformatory at El Reno, Okla., on the conspiracy count. Watts was placed on probation until Sept. 16. Emmett and Judkins were sentenced to 15 months in a reformatory on another indictment charging auto theft, and Kastl was also sentenced to 15 months on a similar charge, the sentences to run concurrently. The men had already been incarcerated for seven months.

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In November 1935, the Arkansas Supreme Court reviewed the case of Neal Cruse versus the Fayetteville Civil Service Commission. The court overturned the judgment of Circuit Court Judge John S. Combs, stating "the court erred in sustaining [Cruse's] motion to dismiss the petition filed against [him]" and recommended that the
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court proceed with a trial of the case "according to law." Their decision was announced January 27, 1936.[48]

A week before the state supreme court's announcement, federal court reconvened in Fort Smith to hold the second trial of Neal Cruse and Homer Christman. At the same session, the court also waded into a complicated scandal involving Washington County Sheriff Harley Gover, his brother Deputy Sheriff Ellis Gover, and two other men in an alleged conspiracy to violate liquor tax laws.

Harley Gover, circa 1934

The jury acquitted Ellis Gover but found Harley guilty. In an allied but separate case, the sheriff was accused of accepting payoff money from a woman who brought whiskey to Fayetteville across state lines in violation of prohibition laws.[49] These charges added still more weight to the crusade of Fulbright and GGL against a local government allegedly riddled with corruption. The proceedings between the Cruse/Christman case and the Gover cases mingled in news reportage and the public mind over the coming days.

On January 22, 1936, Judge Heartsill Ragon and the jury again heard arguments in the cases of Neal Cruse and Homer Christman. Hirsh, brought from the El Reno reformatory to testify, again stated that Christman had changed the motor numbers and that Cruse had 'taken charge' of the stolen car. Circuit Clerk Henry Walker took the stand to state he was present at the police station when Cruse questioned Sam Hirsh about the stolen car. Other officers were present at the time as well, he stated. Walker said that after Hirsh left, "Cruse informed the group he believed Hirsh was the leader of one of the biggest car theft rings ever known to that city."

Testimony from other witnesses verified Cruse's good intentions, as reported in the *Fayetteville Daily Democrat.*

> Former Mayor T.S. Tribble said the chief had talked with him about the Springfield car and said the chief had described it as "sure a hot one."
>
> "I said there were too devilish many stolen cars being brought in and out of Fayetteville to suit me," Tribble testified, "and told him 'if you can't do something about it, I can.' Cruse then asked for ten days more to uncover" the ring.
>
> City Attorney Perkins said Hirsh contacted him about a car and made such a 'ridiculously low' offer that Perkins felt something was wrong.
>
> "He seemed disturbed," Perkins declared. "He said the county officers were after him and he put the car on (South) mountain, that he just had to get rid of it. I told Neal (Cruse) about it and he got it."
>
> Cruse, taking the stand, denied any agreement with Hirsh, Kastl, and others involved.
>
> "This was about the time you recommended Hirsh for deputy United States marshal," asked Assistant U.S. Attorney John Harris.
>
> "Yes."
>
> "We wanted to uncover it right," Cruse replied a moment later to a question as to whether he made any effort to trace the stolen car…"
>
> "Why didn't you arrest Hirsh immediately?" Harris asked.
>
> "I wanted to find out who was bringing them (the cars) in," answered Cruse. "I didn't want to grab them right away."

During the proceedings concerning Homer Christman, Christman denied any connection regarding a conspiracy. He said Kastl had approached him with an offer to trade an automobile for Christman's truck and $50.

> When the machine later was brought to his shop garage, Christman said he "knew it looked too good and asked about a bill of sale. He (Kastl) just smiled." Christman said he then told Kastl he would not trade with him.
>
> Christman told of dies he had purchased for Hirsh when the latter told him he wished to have the motor number on the car changed because he had to buy a new motor block for it.
>
> "I wasn't trying to hide anything," said Christman.
>
> He admitted changing the motor number at the request of Hirsh and accepted Hirsh's explanation. He denied emphatically any agreement with Hirsh, Emmet and Judkins and said he didn't know the "other fellows."

At least ten other men employed in various aspects of government, law enforcement, and criminal justice testified on behalf of the two men. Subsequently, the federal prosecutor entered a motion to dismiss charges against Cruse.

Despite his directed verdict in favor of Rex Perkins and dismissal of charges against Cruse, Judge Ragon evidently retained a measure of doubt about the two men's innocence. In sentencing Christman to 60 days in jail and a $500 fine, Ragon made a lengthy statement from the bench.

> This poor ignorant man saw a chief of police riding around for six weeks in a car that he knew to be stolen, and in my opinion, that chief of police did not give up that car until outsiders came in and it got too hot for him. Christman also saw a deputy constable [Hirsh] trading in stolen cars. The city attorney was mixed up in it. Here were three officers charged with enforcing the law, and yet he saw them mixed up in plain, downright stealing. It is no wonder he thought he could take a short cut to some easy money.
>
> I don't know how long the citizens of Fayetteville will permit officers of that character to enforce the laws, but as long as they do you will find poor ignorant and illiterate fellows like Christman getting caught…

The judge continued at some length, addressing Christman as he concluded that he felt sure that the "good citizens of Fayetteville who have written so many letters and sent in so many petitions about you will raise this fine and get you out of jail."[50]

With the judge's criticism, the bubbling pot of indignation stirred by the town's boosters boiled over. Democratic primaries were coming up, and Fulbright and her allies with the Good Government League redoubled their efforts in support of reforms. The *Fayetteville Daily Democrat* ran headlines for the League and editorialized on the need to clean house.

Judge Heartsill Ragon

For reasons unknown, Fulbright and her editor Lessie Stringfellow Read chose to focus their outrage on Rex Perkins. In an editorial that ran on the front page of the paper one day before the primaries, Read cited the judge's remarks, stating that "our public officials" have identified with "crooks and automobile theft underworld gangs." Fanning the flames, the commentary further raised the matter of "our University and the Great Western Methodist Assembly which are located here, and the hundreds and thousands of young men and women who come to Fayetteville for their training in the highest institution of learning in this State."

Calling for the "citizens of our fair city" to uphold the public trust, the editorial stated that such trust "is of much greater importance than what becomes of some individual person like our City Attorney, Rex Perkins." Exhorting every person to go to the polls the next day, the piece ends without citing any other individual involved, indicted, and/or convicted in the matter.[51]

It was a successful piece of political advocacy, judging by the results. Candidates endorsed by the GGL won by significant mar-

gins. Never mind that the federal court had exonerated Perkins as well as Cruse. Never mind that there was no actual "underworld" gang involved, but rather a small-time hoodlum in the person of Sam Hirsh who allied with and subsequently strong-armed a few local petty criminals to do his bidding in an effort to obtain and sell stolen cars.[52]

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In April 1935, a Washington County grand jury indicted Hirsh, Christman, Judkins, and Watts on grand larceny/car theft charges, the same charges for which they'd already been indicted in federal court. Two indictments charged Hirsh and Christman jointly with receiving stolen property, one charged Hirsh alone with the same offense, and another charged Hirsh and Watts. No disposition of those charges has been found.

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In June 1936, Judge Combs heard the case of Neal Cruse versus the Fayetteville Civil Service Commission as remanded back from the Arkansas Supreme Court. The judge refused to allow testimony regarding the issue of Cruse driving the stolen car as well as testimony from Earl Hand, Bob Day, Charlie McClelland or Tom Lamb. Attorney for the commission, Price Dickson, read into the record what their testimony would have been.

A primary point of contention was Cruse's agreement to resign if the commission would rescind its dismissal. In his defense, Cruse stated that he did not keep that agreement because "the rumor got out that there had been a 'trade-out.' He said that after these rumors were circulated, he did not make any further effort to obtain the position he had been offered. He said he supposed the report [rumor] came from members of the commission," effectively sabotaging the agreement.[53]

After hearing testimony from several members of the community regarding the good character of Neal Cruse, Combs restored Cruse to office and required the city to issue back pay in the amount of $1,540. Price Dickson, acting on behalf of the commission, immediately filed an action restricting Cruse from acting as chief of police until further disposition of the case.

The commission again appealed to the Arkansas Supreme Court. In their pleading, filed June 21, 1936, the commission added a bit more weight to its complaint against Neal Cruse. Aside from points of law cited in its request for a new trial, the commission stated that the court had erred in refusing to permit Charlie McClelland to testify regarding an incident where he and Neal Cruse had involved themselves with two women at the Braden School House. Cruse allegedly took McClelland "off duty" to engage in the incident.

Also cited was the refusal of Judge Combs to allow testimony from Tom Lamb who allegedly found Neal Cruse and Charlie McClelland with two women at Son's Chapel School House "at night without any lights." While unsubstantiated and not prosecuted, these alleged sexual activities coupled with the accusation that Cruse used alcohol and had failed to diligently disrupt bawdy house businesses in the town cast a distasteful pall over his character.

On March 25, 1937, the Arkansas Supreme Court upheld the commission's dismissal of Cruse and rescinded the required payment of back wages as ordered in the circuit court. They also required Cruse to pay court costs. The justices' decision did not cite any of the scandals attached to Cruse's case but rather focused on his stated intent to resign if the commission reversed its initial act in relieving Cruse of his duties and his subsequent failure to do so. "This justified his dismissal and the trial court erred in not sustaining action of the commission in discharging him," the decision stated.

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By his own admission, Sam Hirsh was the driving force in Fayetteville's auto theft ring. Whether the thefts began only in September 1934 is not known. Following a pattern established while he still lived in Sedalia, Sam Hirsh cozied up to his prosecutors at the first opportunity in order to gain as much control as possible over the outcome. Just as he had shifted blame for the proposed Brink's robbery in St. Louis, he tried to point the finger at Fayetteville's police chief and city attorney. He sent his employee George Kastl out to steal cars and tried to send other men on the same task. He lied to and manipulated Christman about the reason for buying dies and
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changing the motor number. He succeeded in harming both Perkins and Cruse for their roles in bringing him to justice.

By the time Hirsh's trial and sentencing concluded in June 1936, his family had terminated their Fayetteville interests and quietly slipped back to Sedalia. Property taxes due that fall from both Harry Hirsh and Sam Hirsh went unpaid.[54]

Following his release from federal prison, in February 1937 Sam Hirsh returned to the family home in Sedalia with his wife, via New York.[55] In April 1937, he was arrested for receiving stolen brass 'journals' from the Missouri-Pacific railroad. Hirsh claimed to have purchased the brass from a 'colored' man who admitted he'd sold the brass to Sam.[56]

In March 1938, Hirsh was extradited from Phoenix back to Fayetteville, where he was to face 1935 state charges on receiving stolen property. It's not clear whether this was on the auto theft or the forged check of missing evangelist G.W. Davis. The report revealed that the $100 check bore Hirsh's co-endorsement along with the forged signature of Davis.[57]

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Interpreting events of the past by piecing together court records, newspaper reports, and other historical documents cannot guarantee the full truth is told. It is possible that members of the Barrow gang made acquaintance with Fayetteville citizens at some point, possibly Merle Cruse. It strains credulity, however, to think that Cruse would willingly hand over his license plate even if he felt sympathetic toward the outlaws.

Even more incredible is the idea that wanted criminals like the Barrows would make any attempt to acquaint themselves with anyone they didn't already know. They were hunted, their faces and identities broadcast in every newspaper in the country. They lived on the run.

The most logical explanation for Clyde Barrow's possession of Merle Cruse's license plate is that Barrow stole it off Cruse's car while it was parked on the edge of town in the Green Acres area where Merle's sister and father lived at that time. The area borders the railroad and its frontage road, Gregg Avenue, which con-
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nects Fayetteville north to Johnson. Also accessible in that vicinity is Highway 112 to Tontitown with its connection to the Oklahoma border and points north and west.

The most likely Fayetteville citizen to connect with the Barrow gang was Sam Hirsh. His junk yard location on Highway 71 as it passed out of town would have been easily accessible to someone driving through the area and useful to anyone needing spare parts. But the Barrow gang didn't repair vehicles, they stole them. They had little money to buy anything at Hirsh's Iron & Metal Company and money would have been Sam's objective in any transaction. It seems safe to rule out contact between the two.

COURTESY OF GARY COOK

Merle Cruse, circa 1945

Facts support the conclusion that Bonnie and Clyde's connection to Fayetteville was limited to the theft of less than $30, a couple of license plates, and — evidently — a physician's medical bag. With that, the greater contribution they unwittingly made was to add importance to already simmering suspicions about the integrity of local government. In the strange way that coincidence works, their fleeting presence in town contributed to an overthrow of the good old boy machine.

A similar deductive process more or less relieves 53-year-old Neal Cruse of any overt role in car theft. At the worst, we could speculate that he had gained his position as chief of police not only based on his leadership qualities or stellar job performance but also on the long term reputation of his father. Neal enjoyed little oversight and, with an inflated sense of security about his position, could have taken liberties with his office hours. He might have abused his

privilege by taking a drink now and then despite Prohibition. He might have chased a few women despite being married. Positions of power encourage men to indulge certain appetites.

Neal Cruse

Rumors of drink and illicit sex undermine a man's reputation and make him vulnerable to accusations of far worse activities. If he would cheat on his wife and drink whiskey when the law forbade it, he might also drive around in a stolen car without working very hard to locate its rightful owner. He might milk the situation to gain the greatest personal advantage and feel, in some respects, that he deserved it.

Neal Cruse was a country boy at heart, and his forced return to life on family land near Cane Hill probably didn't hurt his feelings very much. The loss of a regular income during the darkest days of the Great Depression probably did hurt his pocketbook, however. In the 1940 census, he was working for himself as a laborer. He died in 1972.[58]

NOTES

1. "Fayetteville Mayors, Police and Fire Chiefs," accessed at http://ar-fayetteville.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/6360
2. George, E., and Essie Wiswell, *Prairie Grove History*, 1998. Page 230.
3. "Fayetteville Mayors, Police and Fire Chiefs," accessed at http://ar-fayetteville.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/6360.
4. *Fayetteville Daily Democrat*, February 23, 1923, names Deputy Sheriff Lem Guinn, Constable Owen Tunsill, and Patrolmen Neal Cruse and Bob Curtiss.
5. "Great Depression," Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Depression
6. Over 82 names are listed on the Wikipedia page of Depression-era outlaws, many of them from this impoverished region of the heartland.

7. Charges against Lindsey evidently were later dropped. No further mention of his name appears in records.
8. *Fayetteville Daily Democrat*, December 11, 1934. Page 1.
9. Ibid, December 18, 1934.
10. Hirsh family information derived from federal census 1900, 1910, 1920, and 1930.
11. *Sedalia City Directory*, 1925. Sedalia information accessed through Ancestry.com and newspaperarchive.com
12. *Sedalia Democrat*, May 14, 1925; July 17, 1925; December 29, 1925.
13. Ibid, March 12, 1926.
14. Ibid, December 7, 1926.
15. Ibid, December 12, 1926.
16. Ibid, July 15, 1927.
17. Ibid, September 4, 1927.
18. Ibid, January 6, 1928; April 15, 1928; April 18, 1928.
19. Ibid, May 23, 1928.
20. Ibid, June 17, 1928.
21. Ibid, August 15, 1928.
22. Ibid, April 22, 1922; July 22, 1929; September 13, 1929; September 18, 1929; October 18, 1929.
23. Ibid, January 24, 1930.
24. Ibid, April 20, 1930.
25. Ibid, March 24, 1930.
26. *Fayetteville Daily Democrat*: December 29, 1930; November 26, 1931; February 7, 1931; April 12, 1933.
27. *Sedalia Democrat*, September 1, 1933. Page 6.
28. *Fayetteville Daily Democrat*, February 26, 1932.
29. Ibid, August 13, 1932.
30. Ibid, October 22, 1932.
31. "National Recovery Administration," Wikipedia. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Recovery_Administration.
32. "Kem Keck Out on $1,000 Bond," *Fayetteville Daily Democrat*, April 9, 1935. Page 4.
33. *Fayetteville Daily Democrat*, January 28, 1935. Page 1.
34. "Roberta Waugh Fulbright," Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=1653.
35. *Northwest Arkansas Times*, May 7, 2000 Section E. Article featuring Phillip Steele's book *The Family Story of Bonnie and Clyde*.
36. "Bonnie and Clyde," Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bonnie_and_Clyde.
37. *Northwest Arkansas Times*, May 7, 2000.
38. "Bonnie & Clyde: Romeo and Juliet in a Getaway Car," http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC1AVT8_bonnie-and-clyde-series-9-omens?guid=7288b342-cec7-446d-b66b-43720c22d905 (accessed September 27, 2015).
39. The record is not clear that the license plate from the Fayetteville doctor's car was connected to a car stolen from a doctor. Only one report mentions the theft of a doctor's car and the source of that information is not cited.
40. Merle Cruse came along nearly 20 years after Neal, the youngest of Alex and Lucy's eleven children. Growing up in Fayetteville, Merle participated in social functions and community affairs. In 1924, his wife was named as a guest at a social event at the Washington Hotel hosted by Mrs. Roy Brumfield. At the time of the 1930 cen-

sus, Merle as superintendent along with his wife, Dixie, a seven-year-old daughter, and a servant and her child all lived with and cared for sixteen aged indigents at the Washington County Alms House (county home). Well known about town and with deep roots out in the county, Merle was elected county clerk in 1934. In the same election that defeated Rex Perkins for a second term as city attorney, Merle Cruse ran for county judge and lost by a very narrow margin. He demanded a recount but failed to gain one. In September of that year, Merle bought Fayetteville's Magnolia gas station at the corner of Lafayette and West and settled into life as a private citizen. He died in 1945 at the age of 46.

41. The full story of Rex Perkins in this episode as well as the rest of his career is found in Denele Campbell's 2015 book *Rex Perkins: A Biography*. An additional possible reason for the name change is that Mrs. Fulbright had been buying up small town newspapers in the surrounding area and wanted the Fayetteville paper to become more regional in scope. However, the Fayetteville Democrat Publishing Company had been indicted and found guilty, likely leading to legal problems for that name.
42. The tomato theft arrests ended a series of similar thefts believed to total more than 250 cases of canned tomatoes stolen over an unknown period of time. The cans were affixed with labels stolen from a Springdale factory and sold in a number of Arkansas River valley communities as far south as Clarksville. But not in Washington County, according to a January 25, 1933, article in the *Fayetteville Daily Democrat*. The "theft of the tomatoes had not been discovered until the owner received a letter from a merchant who had bought the tomatoes at a very low price, asking for more at the same figure."
43. *Fayetteville Daily Democrat*, May 1, 1922.
44. Ibid, February 14, 1928; January 29, 1931; June 23, 1932; February 1, 1933.
45. Ibid, December 23, 1925: "Dear Santa Claus, Will you bring me a toy gun and a coster [sic] and a football and a drum. I want a little toy car. George Kastl."
46. Ibid, June 24, 1935.
47. George Davis, age 70, was a Texas evangelist visiting Rogers in April 1934. He was reported missing April 10 by Rogers friends after showing them a cashier's check for $100 and cash of about $70, which he planned to use that afternoon to purchase a used car in Fayetteville. The Davis check went to his Texas bank two days later, where the endorsement was declared a forgery. Sam Hirsh told officers he received the check in payment for a generator purchased by two men, one of them elderly (*Sedalia Democrat*, May 2, 1934). In April 1935, a forgery charge was levied against Kem Keck and Sam Hirsh. A search of Hirsh's place failed to yield Davis' body. As late as March 1938, Hirsh faced extradition from Arizona on a warrant for receiving stolen property. In 1942, Rogers police reported the discovery of a skeleton in the Arkansas River bottoms that they believed might be Davis. The case was never solved.
48. *Fayetteville Daily Democrat*, January 27, 1936.
49. Ibid, January 22, 1936 Even though prohibition had technically ended at the federal level, Arkansas had not yet passed its own repeal.
50. Ibid, February 8, 1936.
51. Ibid, February 24, 1936.
52. Despite the wailing and gnashing of teeth, the election drew only 535 voters, about 15 percent of the city's voters. ("The New Deal and Fayetteville, Arkansas 1933 – 1941," a master's thesis by Stephen Herman Dew, University of Arkansas May

1987. Page 210) Other incumbents who lost their posts included county judge Homer Jackson. Circuit Judge John S. Combs lost his re-election bid in 1938.

53. *Fayetteville Daily Democrat*, June 2, 1936.
54. Ibid, December 5, 1935.
55. *Sedalia Democrat*, February 12, 1937.
56. Ibid, April 27, 1937.
57. The 1940 census finds Sam, his wife and their eight-year-old daughter residing in Phoenix where he's employed as a 'fingerprint expert.' His parents Rose and Harry moved to Phoenix as early as 1941 when they are listed in the city directory. In 1943, Sam is accused of stealing 92 model airplanes, a vacuum cleaner, and five pairs of U. S. Government aviator glasses. In January 1944, Sam Hirsh enlisted in the U. S. Army and served until the end of the war. His military record states that his occupation at the time of his enlistment was 'foreman in manufacturing.' Further city directory records (1948, '52, '57) state Sam's occupation as 'salesman' including a brief stint at Long Beach, California. The 1956 Phoenix City Directory finds Sam and his wife Kiki, his widowed mother Rose, his brother Maurice and wife, and his brother Jack and wife residing in that city. Sam's occupation is "vice president, treasurer, and manager of Sands Realty." He died in Show Low, Arizona, in 1997.
58. Neal and Willie Cruse suffered the loss of their first son, Montreville, when he was 12 years old. Their second son, William Noel, died in 1930 at the age of 24. There were five other children. His wife Willie died in 1942. Neal also lost a younger brother, Alex Jr., in 1931.9. Morgan, Godon. "History of Black Community Interwoven with City's," Northwest Arkansas Times. July 16, 1978.

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The Remarkable Life of Lucy Byrd Mock

By Susan Parks-Spencer

A gifted child of the late 19th century who grew up to become a woman of talent in many fields, Lucy Byrd Mock, a native of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, was a noted pioneering journalist, author, publisher, teacher, musician, and composer. Her enthusiasm for learning and adventure also contributed to record-setting accomplishments in the male-dominated field of golf.

Lucy, or "Birdie" as she was known to her family and friends, was the second child and first daughter of James and Amanda Patton Mock, who, at the time of Lucy's birth in 1876, lived three-miles south of downtown Prairie Grove on their farm, Locust Dell Plantation. (The road next to Locust Dell was later named Mock Street after James Mock and first appears in the 1883 plat of Prairie Grove). The family moved to a 200-acre farm in 1882 one mile west of Prairie Grove they christened "The Oaks," but retained ownership of Locust Dell.[1] James' youngest brother, Prairie Grove physician Dr. Will Mock, later raised thoroughbred horses on the 180-acre Locust Dell farm.[2]

Lucy attended the Methodist Academy, which later became the Prairie Grove Institute, where grades 1-12 were taught.[3] Due to her advanced academic achievements, in 1890 she enrolled as a sophomore at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville at the age of 14.[4] In the summer of 1893, between her junior and senior years, she traveled through the countries of Scotland and England. During that time abroad, she took several golf lessons and became so enthusiastic about the sport that she bought a set of golf clubs and balls to bring back to Prairie Grove.[5]

Upon her return, Lucy asked her father if she could build a small golf course in one of the fields near their home. But the value of

James Mock's productive farmland proved to be an obstacle to his daughter's eagerness to play her new game, and his answer was a firm "no." She then turned to her uncle, Dr. Mock, and asked if there was any section of pastureland available for use at Locust Dell. Delighted to help his niece, her uncle offered not only land to build a course but also the assistance of a few of his farm hands. After studying the landscape, Lucy drew up plans for a five-hole course with fairways and putting greens that would be cut shorter than the pasture grass. Buckets of sand and water were to be placed at the beginning of each hole, ingredients for a do-it-yourself sculpted tee from which the players would hit the ball.[6]

With her golf course completed before the University of Arkansas's fall semester began, 17-year-old Lucy invited some friends over to play. This gathering of teens marked the first time a round of golf was played in Arkansas. Lucy Byrd Mock has since been recognized as the first golfer in Arkansas, the first player at the University of Arkansas, the state's first golf instructor, and the world's first woman (and teenager) to draw up and construct a golf course.[7] In 1999, these achievements were officially recognized when she was posthumously inducted into the Arkansas Golf Hall of Fame, alongside Ross Collins, Stan Lee, and Byron Nelson.[8]

Lucy graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1894 with a bachelor's degree in journalism.[9] A year later, the Psi chapter of the Chi Omega fraternal organization (these women's campus groups would later be called "sororities") was founded on the Arkansas campus, and in 1897 Lucy was inducted into this chapter.[10]

Sometime after her graduation, she joined the faculty of Jessamine College in Nicholasville, Kentucky, possibly as a journalism or Greek and Latin teacher.[11] Her devotion to Chi Omega inspired Lucy to apply for a chapter at Jessamine that was eventually granted, and the Jessamine's new Chi chapter of Chi Omega opened its membership to the young women on campus in 1898 or 1899.[12] She spent several years teaching at this school but resigned in 1900 and moved back to Prairie Grove to study voice and instrumental music, especially the violin.[13]

Lucy proved to be as accomplished with a musical note as she

MOCK FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS COLLECTION (MC 1148)
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A photograph of Lucy Byrd Mock in front of her parents' home on the corner of Mount Nord and Mock Streets in Fayetteville, circa 1915.

was with the written word. An article from the *Prairie Grove Herald* in March 1903 reported that "Miss Byrd Mock" played first violin for the University Orchestra, and was also "one of our most talented and accomplished young ladies and bids fair to become a composer of much repute, her latest production being, 'You Kissed Me In A Dream.'"[14] As she perfected her musical skills, Lucy enrolled at the University of Arkansas, this time as a graduate student, and earned a Master of Arts (M.A.) degree in 1905, most likely in journalism.[15]

At the time, an M.A. was the highest degree offered by the University, and the *Arkansas Gazette* noted that "Miss Mock is the first of the lady graduates to receive it."[16] Also in 1905, she completed a program offered by the American Press Association and was awarded a diploma. One result of her coursework included a feature on Fort Gibson in Indian Territory that "proved to be a great literary and financial success," according to the Fayetteville daily newspaper.[17]

Soon afterward, Lucy accepted a teaching position at Forest Park University for Women in St. Louis, Missouri, instructing young women in Greek and Latin studies. After several years of teaching at the school, she resigned in order to start a new job, which the *Fayetteville Daily* newspaper described in an April 1908 article: "Miss L. Byrd Mock … is now doing special feature work for the St. Louis newspapers. Everything she has offered the papers has been accepted…." While writing articles for St. Louis' newspapers, Lucy, who was a member of the Confederate Choir of America and a "Major General" in the Arkansas chapter, organized a Confederate Choir in St. Louis and also helped raise money to build a Confederate Monument in the city.[18]

Lucy's adventurous nature soon had her on the move again around 1909, this time to the Pacific Northwest. Interested in learning more about the western United States and its Native American culture, she left her Midwest home for Seattle, Washington, where she wrote and published advertising booklets as well as her own work.[19] One of the most unique books she authored was a short poem in 1910 titled "The Maid of Pend d'Oreille; An Indian Idyl" written under the pseudonym, Le Moqueur, or "The Mocker."

The heroine of the story, the "Maid," was a Native American "princess" who falls in love with a white man, a trapper from Hudson Bay. However, the man soon mysteriously disappears, causing the young woman so much grief that she throws herself from a cliff into Lake Pend d'Oreille. Forever after, the strange sounds heard around the lake were said to be the cries of the Indian maiden's spirit mourning her lost love.[20]

There were three editions printed, each with their own distinctive covers. The "cowboy edition" was bound in calfskin, and owners of this copy included then-President William Howard Taft and former President Theodore Roosevelt.[21] The other two books were a horsehide "buckskin edition" and a "birchbark edition," whose delicate bark used on the cover was given to Lucy by the Makah Indian Tribe from the Olympic Peninsula.[22] One edition was sent as a coronation gift in 1911 to King George V and another to the 1914 Leipzig, Germany, Book Exhibit.[23] The Makah Tribe also provided cedar bark that was cut into strips and used to bind the covers of the books. This task was completed by members of the University of Washington's Alpha chapter members of Chi Omega during a "tying bee" event.[24]

Lucy was living at the University of Washington's Chi Omega house in Seattle when she opened a publishing studio named "At the Sign of the Mocking Bird."[25] In June 1910, her eight-thousand-word essay about the city of Seattle's business, education, politics, and art communities was published in Chicago's *Progress Magazine*. Also in 1910, the League of American Pen Women of Washington, D.C. welcomed her as a new member "to which only journalists and writers of distinction are admitted."[26] As she had in St. Louis, Lucy was busy organizing another Confederate Choir, and their first public performance was on Memorial Day at Lake View Cemetery in Seattle.[27]

As of May 1911, Lucy had written more than ten articles for a variety of periodicals. A California-based literary magazine, *The Overland Monthly*, published two of these essays. One, penned by "L. Byrd Mock," chronicled her travels through northern Idaho, and the other by "Byrd Mock," described a trip through the San Juan

Islands in the Puget Sound.[28] In each story, Lucy provided vivid descriptions of her scenic tours and also discussed the different Native American tribes of both regions. At the beginning of her trip to the San Juan Islands, Lucy wrote of her persistent desire for exploration:

> My chaperon [sic] came from Honolulu; I came from Arkansas; we met in Seattle. My intense desire for travel, and especially my penchant for seeking spots little known to the world at large, had won me the very appropriate epithet of "Arkansas Traveler." My newly acquired traveling companion and I had only a faint conception of the places we were headed for, or what we were going to see on the morrow, when we stretched out in our berths that night and watched the moonlight on the moving waters break into a million glittering facets, resembling a mint of new-made gold.[29]

The year 1911 was a busy one in Lucy's professional and personal life. Her publishing company printed a book titled *The Seattle Spirit, Overcoat Pocket Edition – A Primer on Puget Sound: A Bird's-Eye View of Western Washington, Past, Present, and Future.* Its copyright registration was completed in Stigler, Oklahoma, in November 1911, a fact worth noting since Lucy married a Stigler lawyer, William Lafayette Crittenden, on August 8th in Seattle.[30] The groom was described as a "clever poet" and one of Patrick Henry's direct descendants who "will inherit two silver knee buckles." Three of Crittenden's uncles were governors of Arkansas, Kentucky, and Missouri.[31]

One curious bit of information on their marriage certificate was Lucy's age, which she listed as twenty-eight, one year older than her husband, when in fact her actual age at the time of their wedding was thirty-five.[32] Perhaps she felt motivated to appear younger in the belief that their age difference would have been rather scandalous, since Mr. Crittenden belonged to an influential upper-class family. Whether that was a factor in their marriage is unknown, but the couple had divorced by 1915. Lucy returned to Arkansas and her parents, who now lived in Fayetteville but still owned the family's

original farm in Prairie Grove, having sold "The Oaks" in 1903.[33] James and Amanda Mock had built a house on the corner of Mount Nord and Mock streets, and James now had the distinction of having

AUTHOR'S COLLECTION

Lucy Byrd Mock models the Women's American Legion uniform on April 29, 1920. The cape around her shoulders could be converted into a skirt when buttoned up all the way.

two roads less than fifteen miles away from each other named after him.[34]

In February 1915, Lucy left Fayetteville for California, where she had been accepted into a writer's colony in the San Francisco area. Her mother also traveled west with Lucy, and her father joined them after he harvested crops on their farm south of Prairie Grove.[35] Lucy's younger sister, Ethel Mock, had been in ill health and soon followed her family west in hope that the more temperate climate might improve her condition.[36] In 1917, Lucy's California State Library card shows her place of residence as "At The Sign of the Mocking Bird" north of San Francisco in San Raphael.[37]

On April 6, 1917, the United States entered World War I. A year later, an article in Fayetteville's daily newspaper described Lucy's creation of an American Girls' Legion for those aged 12 through 21 years to help with the war effort.[38] The age range of the organization was later expanded to include all women, with the oldest member recorded at 103 years old. Interestingly, this lady's contribution to the group included sewing items for wounded or ill soldiers, and even though she was blind, "her stitches were so fine that never did one show through the wrong side."[39]

The appointment of Legion Number One was reserved for Arkansas, with California given the second position. Lucy designated a Fayetteville resident and fellow poet, Rosa Marinoni, as commander of the Arkansas chapter. The emblem of the organization was a symbol to keep evil spirits at bay used by Lucy's beloved Native American tribes in the Pacific Northwest. The words and music of the Legion's song were, unsurprisingly, written by Lucy.

Participants in the Legion were to be trained in weekly military drills, food conservation, nursing, knitting items for soldiers, and instructed on how to "wage war on evil in all its forms."[40] Members would also be taught proper citizenship so they would be ready to vote "intelligently" if women were ever granted this right.[41] Two of the more well-known individuals who "heartily endorsed" the group included Herbert Hoover, who was head of the government's Food Administration, and muckraking journalist Ida Tarbell.[42]

By early 1918, Lucy had moved to Berkeley and enrolled as

a "special student" at the University of California to work on her Ph.D.[43] However, it appears writing, traveling, and her work with the Legion occupied much of her time for she never completed her degree. In late 1919, she moved to Washington, D.C., in order to research material for future books, and to help set up a new post-war organization called the American Women's Legion.[44] To join, one had to have either served in the military during the war, had a relative who served, or be the recipient of a Gold Star, which signified the death of a military family member. The group worked to memorialize the war's dead, find and preserve the records of women who had participated in the war, promoted literacy, and assisted wounded war veterans through a loan fund. Lucy helped kick off the Legion's loan drive by donating one 1,000 issues of "The Maid of Pend d'Oreille," with profits of its sales going directly into the fund.[45]

Lucy's home in Washington, D.C., was a three-story-building on the corner of First and A Streets N.E. that had been renovated into row houses in 1867 and which harbored a history that inspired her writings. Built in 1815 after the British set fire to the original Capitol building during the War of 1812, it became the temporary Capitol for four years and was where the inauguration of President James Monroe took place in 1817. Prisoners occupied its rooms during the Civil War when its name appropriately changed to the Old Capitol Prison.

In reference to her work space Lucy said, "When I enter my studio and close the door I am in another sphere. Memories of great men and great deeds hover in the echoes of the room, and the fireplace flickers with the light of dreams come true. It is an inspiration to write in such an atmosphere." She was no doubt heartbroken when the building was razed in 1929 to make room for a new federal structure that still stands today, the United States Supreme Court.[46]

In 1923, Lucy married again, this time to real estate broker Willet E. Dentinger from Baltimore, Maryland, who later became a physician. The wedding took place in New York City, which became their home in 1927.[47] However, by 1930, Dentinger was living in San Francisco and according to the 1930 U.S. census, his marital status was "single."

There's little information on Lucy's activities or whereabouts until 1932 when she pops back into the spotlight. She was living on Coronado Street in Los Angeles, California, and had written a poem to commemorate the city's hosting of the Olympic summer games that year. A copy of "The Olympic Games: Past, Present, and Future, A Pindaric Ode" by Miss Byrd Mock was sent to what today is known as the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland.[48] Four years later, the poem was displayed at Berlin's stadium during the 1936 summer Olympic Games in Germany.[49]

From 1935-1940, Lucy lived with her younger brother and his wife, Thomas and Mina Mock, in Queens, New York. (Thomas was also a published poet but worked full-time for General Motors' export firm.)[50] Her name in the 1940 census is "Byrd Dentinger," and both she and her sister-in-law listed "home housework" as their employment status.[51]

Lucy was later hired as a reviewing editor for a publishing company in New York City, where she remained until her retirement at the age of 80 in 1956. She left New York and moved to a house on Spring Street in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, frequently traveling back and forth to Prairie Grove to visit relatives and friends. In the spring of 1966 her health had declined to the point that she was moved to the Methodist Nursing Home in Fort Smith, Arkansas.[52] Her uncle, Dr. Mock, had been on the Nursing Home's Board of Trustees and most likely arranged for his niece to enter the facility. Lucy Byrd Mock was 90 years old when she died in Fort Smith on November 17, 1966, and is buried in the Prairie Grove Cemetery.[53]

NOTES

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4. Ida Pace Purdue, "Address of the S.H.," The Eleusis of Chi Omega 12, no. 3 (August 1910): 285, accessed April 18, 2017, http://bit.ly/2pey9RB, and Helbling, 18.
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9. "Lucy Byrd Mock," *Who's Who in the Nation's Capital, 1921-1922*, (The Consolidated Publishing Company: Washington, D.C., 1922), 272, accessed March 1, 2017, http://bit.ly/2lsdYJF.
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16. "All Over Arkansas," *Arkansas Gazette*, June 29, 1905, accessed May 1, 2017, http://bit.ly/2peIAkw.
17. "Lucy Byrd Mock," Luginbuel Funeral Home, accessed April 28, 2017, http://bit.ly/2qnCNJy.
18. Ibid.
19. "Notes on the Work of Miss L. Byrd Mock," 253.
20. A copy of the poem with all three covers were donated to the Library of Congress by Lucy Byrd Mock and can be viewed online at the HathiTrust Digital Library site, http://bit.ly/2nWPFKc.
21. "Notes on the Work of Miss L. Byrd Mock," 253.
22. "In the Realm of Bookland," *The Overland Monthly* LVII, no. 2 (February 1911): 218, accessed April 15, 2017, http://bit.ly/2pnIs2y.
23. "Notes on the Work of Miss L. Byrd Mock," 253, and *Who's Who in the Nation's Capital, 1921-1922*, 272. Lucy's other achievements listed in Who's Who include membership in the Advertising Club, Art and Archaeology League, Daughters of the Confederacy, the D.C. chapter of the Drama League of America, the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, National Association of University Women, Southern Society, Washington Salon, the San Francisco chapter of the Western Arts Association, and the Women's National Press Club.
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36. Ethel died of pneumonia in California on April 15, 1918. "Miss Ethel Mock," *Fayetteville Democrat*, April 20, 1918, 1.
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